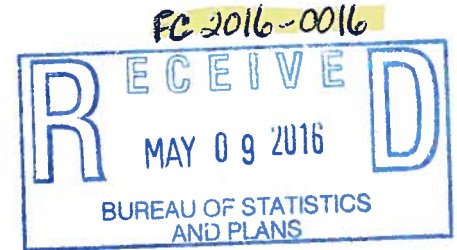




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1845 Wasp Blvd. Bldg. 176
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
(808) 725-5000 • Fax (808) 725-5215

APR 22 2016

Ms. Lola Leon Guerrero
Acting Administrator
Guam Coastal Management Program
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Government of Guam
P.O. Box 2950
Hagåtña, GU 96932



Dear Ms. Leon Guerrero:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will propose the 2016 annual catch limits (ACL) and accountability measures (AM) for Guam bottomfish, crustacean, precious coral, and coral reef ecosystem management unit species (MUS). Federal regulations implementing the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Mariana Archipelago at 50 CFR 665 require NMFS to specify ACLs and AMs every year, based on recommendations from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

The proposed 2016 ACL for bottomfish is 66,000 lb, which is 800 lb less than the 2015 ACL of 66,800 lb. The 2016 ACL for crustaceans, precious corals, and coral reef ecosystem MUS are identical to those NMFS specified for the 2015 fishing year. The proposed action considers the best available scientific, commercial, and other information about the fisheries, and supports the long-term sustainability of fishery resources. The proposed action would not create any new requirements, and fishing for Guam MUS will not be constrained during any fishing year. The action would not modify associated fishery-monitoring programs. NMFS and the Council do not expect the action to affect local enforcement activities because there is no in-season restriction (e.g., fishery closure) proposed to prevent a fishery from exceeding an ACL. After the 2016 fishing year, the Council and NMFS will determine whether or not any ACL was exceeded. If so, NMFS would reduce the ACL in the subsequent years by the amount of the overage.

NMFS proposes to specify 26 ACLs for Guam MUS, as follows:

Fishery	Management Unit Species	Proposed ACL Specification (lb)
Bottomfish	Bottomfish multi-species stock complex	66,000
Crustaceans	Deepwater shrimp	48,488
	Spiny lobster	3,135
	Slipper lobster	20
	Kona crab	1,900
Precious Coral	Black coral	700



Fishery	Management Unit Species	Proposed ACL Specification (lb)
	Precious corals in the Guam Exploratory Area	2,205
Coral Reef Ecosystem	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> – atulai, bigeye scad	50,200
	Acanthuridae – surgeonfish	97,600
	Carangidae – jacks	29,300
	Carcharhinidae – reef sharks	1,900
	Crustaceans - crabs	7,300
	Holocentridae – squirrelfish	11,400
	Kyphosidae – chubs/rudderfish	9,600
	Labridae – wrasses	25,200
	Lethrinidae – emperors	53,000
	Lutjanidae – snappers	18,000
	Mollusks – octopus	23,800
	Mugilidae – mullets	17,900
	Mullidae – goatfish	15,300
	Scaridae – parrotfish	71,600
	Serranidae – groupers	22,500
	Siganidae – rabbitfish	18,600
	<i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i> – bumphead parrotfish	797 (CNMI and Guam combined)
	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> – humphead (Napoleon) wrasse	1,960
	All other CREMUS combined	185,000

NMFS has determined that the proposed action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies and objectives of coastal zone management program of Guam.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like to review draft supporting documents that provide information and analysis supporting this determination, please contact Matt Dunlap at 808-725-5177 or matthew.dunlap@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator